

# TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

## PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF SURGERY.

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*Stated meeting held June 1, 1908.*

### FIBROLIPOMA OF SYNOVIAL FOLDS OF KNEE-JOINT.

DR. JAMES K. YOUNG presented a man, 21 years of age, who five years ago sustained an injury to the left knee from a fall on the ice. He exhibited the usual symptoms of synovitis, of which pain was an important and persistent feature, continuing until 18 months ago, when he came under Dr. Young's observation. At this time the knee was partially ankylosed, there was thickening and induration about the patella, with atrophy of the muscles, and pain was excruciating. An exploratory arthrotomy was undertaken to verify the diagnosis of villous arthritis. The incision was a subpatellar one dividing all the structures in the anterior portion of the joint. The condition was found to be a fatty degeneration of the subpatellar bursa and synovial fringes. The recovery was uneventful and the functional use of the joint is perfect.

DR. OSCAR H. ALLIS said he had had four or five somewhat similar cases, but in these he thought the grade of inflammation was greater than in that of Dr. Young's case, and that that might have possibly been the reason why his results had never been so good. He had gotten fairly good motion, but nothing so complete as in the case presented.

Instead of the incision below, as in Dr. Young's case, which calls for the division of the patella tendon, Dr. Allis prefers an incision above the patella, as he does not think there is quite the same risk with this incision. A good view of the whole joint is obtained by either of these incisions, which are elliptical, turning the patella up in one instance, and down in the other. Dr. T. G. Morton was the first to split the patella longitudinally and turn the lateral halves outward, but with this procedure he did not think one got as good a view of the joint.

## TENDON TRANSPLANTATION FOR TALIPES VALGUS.

DR. YOUNG presented a girl, 12 years of age, who had paralysis of the tibialis anticus muscle with marked valgus, of seven years' duration. For three months prior to the operation the deformity had been increasing. The operation performed five months ago consisted in the transplantation of the peroneus longus into the tibialis anticus, the valgus having first been restored to normal position. The foot is now in a corrected position and its function normal.

## PSOAS ABSCESS CURED BY POSTERIOR OPERATION.

DR. YOUNG presented a girl,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years old, who was taken ill six months ago with incipient Pott's disease of the lower dorsal vertebræ. There was marked flexion of the thigh and psoas abscess was present. Four months ago the abscess was opened by a posterior incision, the so-called Treves operation. The abscess-cavity was everted, the extremities of the wound were shortened by sutures, and drainage was maintained for only a very short time, the wound closing in seven weeks. The patient has now entirely recovered from the abscess.

## LUDWIG'S ANGINA.

DR. JOHN W. PRICE read a paper reporting five cases of Ludwig's angina. For this paper see page 649.

DR. T. TURNER THOMAS (by invitation) in discussing this paper said he believed that Ludwig's angina was more common than is generally supposed, but that these five cases occurring in one hospital within ten weeks made it appear more common than even he had believed. He thinks there is no doubt regarding the diagnosis in any of Dr. Price's cases. In many cases, however, he says there is much confusion in the diagnosis, many being reported as Ludwig's angina which were simply cases of submaxillary cellulitis, because the patient could not open the mouth, had difficulty in swallowing, in speaking, and in handling the saliva. In every one of Dr. Price's cases he thinks there are typical symptoms of the condition as described by Ludwig, which began in the submaxillary region, with possibly the exception of the second case, which began in the mouth and is of a different